

NOTICE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE TRIAL COURT

RE: COURT-CONNECTED DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICES

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Chief Justice for Administration and Management, pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution, Supreme Judicial Court Rule 1:18, hereby announces the commencement of the Uniform Re-Application Process to receive referrals for court-connected alternative dispute resolution services. The Trial Court invites applications from programs seeking approval to receive court referred cases for dispute resolution services from each court department.

1. Eligibility. Pursuant to the Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution, which became effective on February 1, 1999, the Departments of the Massachusetts Trial Court are only permitted to make referrals for court-connected alternative dispute resolution services to programs approved by the Chief Justice of the applicable Trial Court Department.

2. Programs Previously Approved. All prior approvals to provide court-connected alternative dispute resolution services will expire on **January 1, 2005**. Therefore, all programs currently approved to provide services in the Trial Court must reapply if they seek continued approval.

3. Approval of Programs. All programs currently approved to provide court-connected alternative dispute resolution services in the Trial Court must reapply and any new programs seeking approval to provide court-connected alternative dispute resolution services must apply for approval. In order to receive referrals on or after **January 1, 2005**, a program must (1) submit a Program Application Form (hereafter "PA Form") to the department or departments in which the program seeks to receive referrals, and (2) receive written approval from the Chief Justice of the Department or Departments.

4. Obtaining Forms. The PA Form may be obtained at the Administrative Office of the Trial Court or on the Massachusetts Trial Court web site at [www.state.ma.us/courts/admin/legal.html].

5. Program Applications. The PA Form must be received by the appropriate Department or Departments on or before **November 17, 2004**. A program must submit a separate application to the Chief Justice of each Department to which it is applying to provide services and one copy to the Administrative Office of the Trial Court. Programs will be approved as of January 1, 2005 and such approval will expire on **January 1, 2007**.

6. Questions. Any questions about this notice may be directed to Timothy M. Linnehan, Esq., Coordinator of ADR Services, the Administrative Office of the Trial Court (617-742-8575).

Robert A. Mulligan
Chief Justice for Administration and Management

Dated: August 13, 2004